

Quarterly  
Journal of Victoria Local,  
Socialist Party of Canada  
P.O. Box 237, Victoria, B.C.

15¢

VOL 5  
1972  
NO. 4

# FULCRUM

N. D. P. ELECTION WIN

BARKETT

LITTLE DIFFERENCE

## NEW FORMAT

Henceforth there will be some changes in FULCRUM's production. This is due to several factors. One is the fact that Victoria Local members plan to play an ever increasing roll in the production of leaflets and the reproduction of some socialist works. This will necessitate the economizing of energies. To this end FULCRUM will now be produced quarterly instead of 5 times yearly. To offset the loss of one copy per year the FULCRUM Production Committee will attempt to turn out 16 pages every issue instead of the previous 12. This actually means a yearly net gain in pages produced but to the Victoria members it means considerable saving in lay up, production and mailing time.

Mailing is another factor that influenced the decision to change FULCRUM's format. The recent increased mailing costs mean that henceforth all new subscriptions will be charged the old rate of \$1.00 plus 50 cents mailing in Canada and the United States or \$1.00 mailing overseas. Existing subscriptions will be honoured until time for their renewal.

It is hoped that FULCRUM readers will be happy with the new arrangement. The new subscription rate along with bundle rates are listed with the Declaration of Principles and the Companion Party Directory on the back page.

## HAPPINESS IS THE SOCIALIST LOCAL THAT HAS ITS OWN FOLDING MACHINE

That is right. The Victoria Local now has its own paper folding machine. It is an ancient relic but it runs along "ticketty boo" and does the job. It also seems uncomplicated enough that the members will be able to do their own maintenance. Already the Victoria Local has run off four thousand double fold Federal election leaflets for the Party. The Victoria Local is now in a good position to reproduce socialist pamphlets for the movement.

## MORE HAPPINESS IS HAVING AN I.B.M. SELECTRIC TYPEWRITER

That is also right. FULCRUM now has the use of an I.B.M. Selectric Typewriter. Although it will mean a bit more expense it will give more variety and fidelity of printing rendering more pleasurable reading. It is hoped that the added expense can be made up by increased FULCRUM subscriptions.

Victoria Local is really laying it on in an intensive effort to expand the spread of socialist ideas. It would seem a very appropriate time for those who are so inclined to get a few of the lumps out of their mattresses.

## B.C. PROVINCIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Although the working class are not yet supporting socialism to the degree that there could practically be any socialist candidates in the recent B.C. election the Socialist Party of Canada was nevertheless active during the campaign doing what is most necessary for the movement at this stage - promoting socialist education. Fifteen hundred leaflets were produced and distributed, particularly in the Victoria and Vancouver area. An even more intensive effort is looked forward to in the Federal election.

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New Page -- Same Book

## N. D. P. B. C. ELECTION WIN

Much to everyone's surprise, the N.D.P. included, the September 30th election resulted in an overwhelming 38 seats for the N.D.P. in the 55 seat legislature. More than an N.D.P. win it was a Social Credit defeat with the N.D.P. falling into the remaining vacuum. The election behavior of the Socreds was amusing to the point of hilarity. No Gilbert and Sullivan could have invented a more amusing script for one of their comedies. Phil Gaglardi, the high flying Elmer Gantry type sky pilot and minister of social welfare, started the ball rolling by saying that the Premier was an old fuddy duddy. Gaglardi said that his remarks were said in private (off the record) and then that he hadn't made the remark and that he was going to sue the interviewers for misquoting him. That there was a grain of truth in flying Phil's remarks was demonstrated by the failure of the Premier to use his cool in the incident. Bennett said that if Gaglardi didn't win his case in court he would lose his cabinet post. Then to top things off a few days before election day in a radio all candidates interview while struggling for the mike Trade & Industry Minister Waldo Skillings knocked 95 pound Edith Gunning right on her Conservative ass. It was not that in its old age the Social Credit party had suddenly gone insane. There had always been a sizable lunatic element in the Party. Flying Phil's use of government airplanes to travel to his home riding, his frequent violation of speeding restrictions and other abuses made him a favorite of newspaper cartoonists. Waldo, who only opened his mouth to change feet had distinguished himself by falling down the steps of the Union Club. (Conservative drinking club).

On most occasions the media was ready to have a little chuckle at the Socred's expense but they usually cooled it at election times. There was a bundle of Socred advertising loot to be picked up and none of them wanted to lose out on the bootv. This time it was different. Almost daily there was an editorial cartoon ridiculing the ridiculousness of the Socreds. The reason was not hard to find. The Socreds had reaped the wrath of the media by banning all advertisements of tobacco and alcoholic beverages.

So it wasn't really the N.D.P. that caused the defeat of Social Credit. It was the capitalist media with, of course the co-operation of the Social Credit itself. A small factor was the Teacher's Federation that spent a fair amount laying one on the Socreds for drying up school funds.

Large sections of the capitalist class didn't figure on an N.D.P. win. Socialists, it would appear, have underestimated the ignorance of, at least, some sections of the capitalists class. Some of them really seemed to think they had something to fear in the N.D.P. and they really opened their wallets for the Liberals and Conservatives.

It was amusing on election night, as the N.D.P. landslide became evident, to hear the T.V. commentators back tracking on their own bullshit about the N.D.P. being socialist in giving reassurances that things, after all, would be all right. In other words it would be business as usual. Real socialists need no such assurances. They are well aware that it is capitalism that runs governments and not the other way around. It is true the N.D.P., like a new broom may sweep away some of the minor annoyances that the complacent Socreds had needlessly allowed to develop. Some of their reforms are likely to backfire. In the long run capitalism is capitalism no matter who administers it, the lot of the great majority, the working class, remains basically the same.

## INFLATION

### Lots of paper currency - not much gold

Most people equate the high cost of living with inflation of the currency. That is, they decide that because a given amount of currency will no longer exchange for the same quantity of food, shelter and clothing as it formerly did, that the "value" of currency has therefore depreciated in relation to the "values" of goods and services. According to this theory, however, currency has not fallen from some fixed absolute point. It is only down in relation to the prices of commodities that have gone up.

The last part of this logical picture is to put the blame for the high cost of living on to the high price of another commodity - labor power. Labor power is the commodity employers buy to turn the wheels of industry. (It includes mental energy). Its price is called wages. It is quite reasonable to conclude that high wages can cause an increase of demand over supply in the market place, causing prices to rise. Awareness of so few factors of the economy can also induce one to believe that the high money wages demanded by "greedy" workers and union leaders with horns are forcing higher costs of production. Forcing the manufacturer or retailer, against the goodness of his heart and in spite of his concern for society, to raise the prices of his commodities.

Like the drunken motorist who told the magistrate that the road wouldn't go straight, it is easy and natural for people to think that any other factor in today's economic drama may have fluctuated, but not good, old fashioned "money." That if anything has been altered from an absolute, it has not been the initial quality of the paper and coins that most people carry for fleeting moments in their pockets or purses. If "money" seems to be worthless, its only because "goods have gone up," not because "money has gone down."

But it is no more rational to try to understand the causes of inflation in the absence of some of the economic parts than it is to try to figure out the operation of the reciprocating motor with valves, pistons and carburetor missing. Also, inflation and high prices are not necessarily twin sisters. High prices can exist without inflation of the currency at all. Demand caused by the current \$12 billion consumer debt owed by "ordinary" Canadians, the wage-working section of society, plus industrial borrowing and deficit government spending, could be factors in today's high C.O.L.

The devaluation of currency however, little known and unofficial or informal, is probably the biggest cause of today's spiraling prices. The idea to be presented here is that a change in the quality of the currency was the first move, with the working man ending up as one of the victims rather than the villain. With a greater volume of currency in circulation (depreciation), prices rise, and wage workers struggle to raise money wages to catch up with the rising C.O.L. to keep even, on the treadmill. Most people would not mind inflation per se, if it did not involve also a distressing fall in their real incomes.

### GOVERNMENT MANIPULATION OF CURRENCY

Governments, like the federal government of Canada, are the only agencies, through the banks they control, which have the consciously man-made authority and power to devalue currency, or revalue it upward, in whatever direction the virtually uncontrollable forces of the economy pushes them. They can do this either by formal declaration, or informally by simply increasing the volume of currency in circulation. And the Canadian government seems to have been busy in this regard.

From 1954 to 1970 the Gross National Product rose from \$28,283,000,000 to \$63,227,000,000, in terms of "constant" or 1961 dollar value, an increase of 2.2 times. (Canada Yearbooks). In the same period of time, the amount of currency in circulation

to \$32,093,000,000, an increase of 3.15 times, or a third greater than the increase in GNP. (Bank of Canada figures.) More paper money chasing relatively fewer commodities. But that amount of inflation wasn't too bad.

From 1940 to 1970, in terms of constant dollars, the Gross National Product rose from 14 billion dollars odd to 63 billion dollars odd, an increase of 4.3 times. The Canadian government wasn't idle in the same time period. From January, 1941 to January, 1971, Bank of Canada assets and liabilities - total notes in circulation, rose from 343 million to 3 billion, 445 million; a whopping increase of ten times, or 1,000 percent, or shall we say 600 percent more than the increase in the GNP?

In the same time period, under the term - "Bank of Canada Assets and Liabilities and notes held by others" the volume of paper rose from \$148 million to \$3,106 million - an increase of 13.9 times. Or put another way 900 percent more paper money chasing a relatively comparable volume of goods and services than was the case in 1940? And people wonder why prices rise? If one insisted upon viewing the world in terms of good buys vs. bad buys, then in comparison to the government, the greedy workers and wicked union leaders had better get their heads fitted for halos.

It is too bad that the same agency that sends out the pension checks will not increase the checks to the same extent that it devalues the currency represented by those checks. But the real world is harsh. It doesn't cost the government mint any more to produce a piece of paper with the figure \$1,000.00 printed on it, than it does to produce another piece with \$1.00 printed on it. In other words, the point here is that any value that happens to be in paper currency and coins is not determined by the cost of producing the stuff. Something else that does contain value, actually backs up currency in varying degrees. Most people who are adversely affected by the economics of present day society are more interested in NHL standings, or the latest baseball results than they are in economics. But to understand what money is, and how it relates to the rest of society, a kindergarten comprehension of the whole subject of economics is necessary first.

#### A B C's OF ECONOMICS

Economics is the scientific study of the mode of wealth production, that is of the manner and means whereby society procures its food, clothing and shelter, and all that goes to make up its living.

#### WEALTH

The total of all that is produced by human labor is the wealth of the world. Ignoring such terms as "natural wealth," "mineral wealth," "forest wealth," and so on. These forms of wealth are purely potential, and cannot for purposes of economic investigation be called wealth. (The use of a certain terminology of definitions is necessary in any system of analysis.)

For instance, the metal known as gold is freely supplied by nature in the form of ore in the ground. It cannot be regarded as real wealth until the mental and muscular energy of human beings has been consumed in mining and refining it. The same rule of thumb applies to all other items of wealth, from brassieres to beer, from finger bowls to nuclear weapons. Anything produced by human labor power, applied to natural resources, to satisfy some social want comes under the category of wealth. The total of the world's wealth therefore represents the total of the labor performed in its production.

## VALUE OF WEALTH

Material resources are often bought, sold or leased, but only on their potential value. The commodities that eventuate from them are the result of human labor. Very simply, the value of wealth is nothing more than socially necessary labor.

## USE VALUE

A commodity is in the first place "a product of labor". Secondly it is a "use value;" it will satisfy some human want. Its use value is independent of its labor value. The use value of a sack of flour might be determined by how long it will keep a Bangla Desh child alive. In other words its use value is characterized by its natural properties. Its exchange value or labor value is determined by the amount of labor crystallized in it.

## COMMODITIES

Wealth, as defined here, can exist in any kind of social organization, whether a classless democracy or a class divided commercial society. Wealth is merely goods and services or products produced by humans for human consumption. However utility, or use value is not the primary purpose of production in a commercial society. It does exist, but it is secondary. The primary purpose for production today is for sale. This leads to the meaning of the word "commodity" as defined here - an article of wealth produced primarily for sale, and only secondarily for use.

## EXCHANGE VALUE

There is no escape from "labor" in understanding economics. Obviously people who own sacks of flour will not go around looking for other people who own sacks of flour. They want other commodities to trade off their flour for, dissimilar to their own. But the ratio at which their flour will exchange for other commodities will be determined by something they all have in common, e.g. by how much necessary labor there is embodied in the different commodities. A sack of flour will only exchange evenly with someone else's hog or calf if the hog contains the same amount of labor as the bag of flour, generally.

## MONEY

Away back when the number and variety of goods produced was small, barter or simple trading was sufficient to exchange articles of wealth between people who wanted them. But gradually, with the evolution of the means of production and distribution, the volume and variety of wealth became too great for barter to handle the huge number of exchanges. A new commodity was needed that would function as the universal equivalent of all other commodities. A commodity that did not rust, corrode, dehydrate, rot, or use up too much space in storage. Naturally, to be exchangeable with all other commodities, it had to contain something else common to all other commodities. That something was value, that is, crystallized labor. After many trials and errors gold was finally settled upon as being the ideal money commodity. It is quantitatively expressed in national units, such as dollars in the US. and Canada, pounds in England and roubles in Russia.

## CURRENCY

With the further development of commerce, gold as real money became impractical

as a currency, flowing from hand to hand, facilitating an increasing number of exchanges, as sales volumes rose. It is a soft metal and coins would wear thin from use; coins could be devalued by common citizens by simply shaving them thinner, etc.

So pieces of paper and other harder metal coins were issued -- printed or stamped as being represented by such and such an amount of gold. These tokens could be redeemed at a bank for the amount of gold indicated on them. Gradually through the decades and recurring economic crises, the gold standard was removed, and a more tenuous gold basis retained.

#### DEVALUATION OF CURRENCY (INFLATION)

Now, after this too brief outline, back to that "something" that backs up currency, mentioned previously, that gives currency its "value." Gold, Real money. A commodity that all other commodities can be expressed in, because, for one thing, like all other commodities, it contains something common to them all, socially necessary labor (value).

Canada, like the U.S. and many other countries, does not keep a stock of gold on hand to back up or redeem domestic currency. In the words of a Bank of Canada official, "...the value of the Canadian dollar within Canada depends on its general acceptability as a means of payment and a store of value." (author's emphasis). Aside from outside influences therefore, the absolute worth of Canadian currency will fluctuate on the basis of changes in the volume of the stuff in circulation, or by formal government declarations. A huge increase in volume, far beyond the increases in national production, as we have seen is the major cause of the present depreciation of currency (inflation). This increased volume has undoubtedly created a progressively artificial demand, pulling up prices.

#### INTERNATIONAL INFLATION

On the international scene however, beyond the acceptance of formal government degrees, the real McCoy -- gold, is the final denominator in trade. Canada, like all countries, maintains a gold foreign exchange asset to look after export-import deficits, when they occur. Inasmuch as gold is the only real money in existence, its disposition internationally will have some effect on national currencies, including Canadian.

As the world economy is integrated much more now than in the past, the surplus of devaluations of currencies of some countries over and above the re-valuation of other countries, will have an inflationary effect on Canadian dollar tokens. For political and other purposes, the U.S. government wanted its flood of paper currency to be real money; "as good as gold," especially when its gold reserves took off for Europe in exchange for trade deficits. When the crunch of international indebtedness came, European creditors demanded gold. Over a year ago, the U.S. did not have enough gold in Fort Knox to redeem the U.S. paper tokens held by West Germany alone. It is estimated that European countries and Japan have from 45 to 50 billion dollars of U.S. paper. There is only 10 billion dollars of gold left in that "fabulous" Fort.

Since U.S. Politicians have been compelled to recognize, that with a lot of their gold backing gone, their official pieces of paper are not much more than pieces of paper, they have had to close their "gold window," that is, put an embargo on further exports of gold. This means that the "value" of U.S. paper tokens will formally fall in relation to gold on the free market to a level reflecting what

their true ratio has been for several years. To date, they had fallen to a point where 67 of them were needed to equate one ounce of real, golden money. That is, a fall from a formal or pegged value of 35 of them equals one ounce of gold, in the space of a few months. Along with the present recession in world markets, political chickens are coming home to roost in a hurry.

As a further indication of the official fraudulent activities of governments. - (Speaking to a seminar by University of Toronto's Faculty of Management Studies, titled - "Financial management Against Inflation," Financial Post, May 20, 1972). Dr. Franz Pick, publisher of Pick's Currency Yearbook in New York and Pick's monthly World Currency report, after calling currency managers; pimps: financial analysts: crooks; politicians: fools; bank presidents: idiots; and stating that there are only five central bankers in the world who have any idea what currency is all about, declared that there has been 1,047 currency devaluations in 138 countries since World War II.

#### WHO IS REALLY TO BLAME?

To take an example of one of the alleged villains of inflation, bakery truck drivers with their paltry take-home pay of a reported \$150.00 a week, and others of the unionized sector of the wage-working fraction of society. They don't have much chance when one thinks of the patient struggles they must endure to chase steaks now nudging \$2.00 a pound, (for instance) as against the ease with which governments can devalue their paper token wages. That's a big hand the government has in the workers' back pocket. Lower income and unorganized layers of the useful section of society are that much worse off.

Devaluation of currency also hurts some of the rich. It erodes some profits, (dividends, interest and rents), but aids other members of the elite, in ways not pertinent here. It is indulged by some governments, over the long haul, to generally help the rich. Purported purposes of it are to stimulate investments during recessions; easing unemployment (to reduce working class discontent); to reduce real wages, thereby increasing profits; to capture a bigger share of foreign markets; generally Keynesian policies of allegedly "controlling" this chaotic economy.

Dr. Alfred E. Carlsen, whose article in the Victorian of May 10, partially sparked this explanation of inflation, sought to put the blame on the higher salary and wage income sector. In so doing he made such inaccurate comparisons as corporation profits (a fraction of all profits) versus all wages and salaries, or the industrial part of wages alone.

To better appreciate the limitations of formal economists, of which Dr. Carlsen is merely one, in a cloistered school, it is necessary to go back to economics for beginners.

#### SURPLUS VALUE

A commodity was defined as being "an article of wealth, produced primarily for sale or exchange." The idea was that generally commodities can only exchange with one another on the basis of equal values, that is equal amounts of necessary labor.

Fluctuations in price eventually cancel each other out in practice, so that in every day commerce, commodities exchange with each other on the basis of their values on the average and over the long term. Which means that the bulk of profits are not made by buying cheap and selling dear, or by "mark-ups." This

is merely speculator's profit, a fringe benefit that one entrepreneur may gain at the expense of another. Since businessmen are always buying and selling, if this speculator's profit was the only profit, then one part of the business "world" would always be losing, so that another section could win. Since this is clearly not the actual situation, the source of the huge aggregates of wealth possessed by the wealthy few, such as sky scrapers, industrial plant, mines, mills, land, etc. has to be found elsewhere.

Real profit, or surplus value accrues from the buying of the only commodity that the wage and salary earning strata owns, and offers for sale, -- physical energy or labor power. The boss doesn't buy the worker's labor, but only his ability or power to labor. If he bought the worker's labor he would end the financial year with no surplus, because he would be paying for everything he received. But by paying the prevailing market value of the food, clothing, shelter and education required to maintain a given ability put out by a given worker, the employer ends up with a surplus of finished commodities that he didn't pay for.

Depreciation of machinery and consumption of materials does not count in computing his current surplus, because they were previously existing values, which were transformed from their previous form to a new form as a part of new commodities. New surplus values which did not previously exist can only come from "unpaid labor," that is the surplus of values that accumulate after the employer has paid the legal market value of the energies he bought from his employees. He buys energy. He receives crystalized labor. And he is the sole owner of his new pile of wealth.

This surplus value is divided into "rent, interest and profit" This whole surplus value, or profit is what Dr. Carlsen ignored in his comparisons. For instance, the big increases in rent and interest. Briefly, he knowingly or unknowingly took the side of one of the struggling classes, against a fraction of the other, in attributing the blame for inflation. When actually a shift in the ratio between what the owning and the non-owning classes get of the wealth of society cannot be a significant cause of inflation.

#### GENERALLY, ALL TO BLAME

While inflation harms some of the rich, by eroding profits, in addition to reducing real wages of the workers, the workers would gladly trade their problems for those of the rich, anyday. But only a tiny fraction of the nine-to-fivers have any plans of invading the ranks of the elite. The rest are resigned to their "station in life." Which is another indication of how ludicrous the folklore of a greedy working class is, in spite of the hard death this idea is enduring. Indeed, this world would be a better place, or will be when the instalment buying crowd begins to have a higher regard for itself, in the consumption sphere at least. Instead of the fixation they presently have, of an accepted poverty standard, below which they generally try not to allow themselves to fall, in spite of inflation.

There is not much hope, so long as they get uptight over changes in degree of their status, while supinely accepting their productive and consumptive role itself as being socially unchangeable.

This commercial type of social organization, production for sale for profit, is world wide. Consciously or unconsciously 99.9 percent of the population supports it. Inflation, as one of its problems must be laid at the door of commercial society's champions.

JGJ

## ECOLOGY

ECOLOGY -- A TERM LONG BURIED IN THE DICTIONARY, known only to a relative few of scientific bent (chiefly biologists) has suddenly flowered into full bloom and become an ingredient in almost every American's vocabulary. It is that department of science which deals with the Mutual Relations between Organisms And Their Environment.

It falls from the lips of concerned scientists, television commentators, and even (on T.V. Shows) solemnly commented upon by seven and eight year olds. From the "mouths of babes and sucklings" to "responsible citizens" alarmed at the rapid poisoning of not only the atmosphere, but the stratosphere. Also naturally from the country's politicians, all climbing on to the band-wagon, to make of it an issue out of which they hope to enhance their careers. Being politicians, whose main function is to 'make the simple complex and the plain obscure" we can expect from them avalanches of words and a dearth of actions.

All are apparently agitated by the problem and some politicians see the economic consequences in an "affluent society" resulting from an effectively applied remedy. Shall we clean our rivers and lakes and beaches of pollution, and our air of poisons so that we might live cleaner and healthier lives, and in so doing probably close down our huge plants, oil refineries, etc., limit our automobiles to the "bug" variety, chance that, perhaps, within forty years we may be choked with our self-created poisons and be strangled with our increasing garbage?

Senator Muskie seems to see the problem. I quote:

"In a consumer-oriented society, everything we produce leads to waste. Maybe we ought to set some limits on the standards of living."

This, at best, is but a pious wish echoed by many other politicoes not possessing (apparently) Muskie's sincerity.

The question also occupies the attention of Dr. Arthus Tamplin of U.C. at Berkeley, Calif., who recently made reference to the projected construction of generating plants in the Pacific Northwest to provide power for aluminum plants. Of this he says: "...the new aluminum production is for the manufacture of more beer cans and TV dinner trays."

If, then, the fairly well satisfied members of this "affluent" society, having been dragooned and pressured (by insidious advertising, etc.,) into accepting beer and TV dinners as an essential ingredient in the "American Way of Life," could be persuaded to forego these putative luxuries (or necessities) the new power plants and aluminum factories would be unnecessary. This might be one little step in the direction of ecological balance.

Yet, as one writer puts it: "...this kind of solution, broadly applied, would wipe out economic growth. And WITHOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH, HOW WOULD WE GENERATE THE TAX RESOURCES NEEDED TO PAY FOR AMBITIOUS SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND CREATE THE JOBS UPON WHICH THE ESCAPE FROM POVERTY ULTIMATELY DEPENDS?" (Emph. added).

And there, of course, is revealed the kernel of the nut. In a rapidly developing technological society, such as capitalism now reveals itself to be, in which the impossibility of paying a "living wage" to all its productive man power, AND AT THE SAME TIME GUARANTEEING THE INTEREST ON ITS BONDED INDEBTEDNESS, it is becoming increasingly obvious, not only to the student of Economics but to a considerable number of thinking citizens. The question stands: HOW INDEED?

The problem is not just American. Like capitalism which produced it, it is worldwide.

The ex-diplomat, George F. Kennen, in the current issue of Foreign Affairs says: "the ecology of the planet is not arranged in national compartments. Who-ever interferes seriously with it anywhere is doing something that is... of serious concern to the international community at large."

So he proposes an International Environmental Agency to establish international Standards. Which would-what? We have a United Nations to preserve world peace which proves to be, after many years, a glorified debating club.

Kennan's suggested collection of new bureaucrats, as with the United Nations, the World Bank, etc., inevitably would be under the control of the U.S.A. Granted sincerity and granting (a less probability) that American industry would undertake to completely resolve the problem of pollution, how would this react on those "under-developed, under privileged" nations now chiefly producers of raw materials, etc., for American industry, and agents for the accumulation of new capital for American investors?

On the surface Kennan's position is sound. But so, conversely is the position the "under-privileged" nations are compelled to take. For example Brazil, whose delegate to the United Nations gave warning recently that the poorer nations could not afford to be penalized by stringent anti-pollution regulations. The expense, he maintained, would be such as to render their NEW factories incapable of competing ON THE WORLD MARKETS.

From these suggestions of doing "something" about it, let us flip the coin and view the obverse side.

President Nixon's science adviser, Dr. Lee A. DuBridge seems irritated with the contention that we must accept lower living standards to allow us to live at all. This authority of the administration delivers himself thus:

"There may be few people who would like to return to the days of the cave man. But most of us believe that men live healthier, more pleasant lives today than they did 10,000 years ago, or even 100 years ago."

He believes that the solution lies in what has produced the problem -- technology. Sewage can be treated. Cars could be made to cause less pollution. And substitutes may be provided for present insecticides, aluminum beer cans and TV dinner trays. Buried in this suggested solution is the hope (a rather vain one) that from this ecological crusade new jobs could be created and that the economic loss sustained thereby could be equated with the new economic gain.

Of course President Nixon, in one of those terminological generalities at which he is expert, in his State of the Union message last January, disputed the idea that in this country too, "there is a fundamental contradiction between economic growth and the quality of life, so that to have one we must forsake the other." He argued that we must have vigorous economic growth "to provide us with the means to enrich life and to enhance our planet as a place hospitable to man."

Regarding this we note one writer's observation: "The generality, unfortunately, often proves difficult to apply IN SPECIFIC, REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS." (Emph. added)

Let us look at the picture before us which alarms an increasing number of the populace. Does it really, fundamentally alarm the majority -- President Nixon's

great "silent" group? Does it have any great impact on the denizens of the cities crowded ghettos, or the fairly satisfied workers, (the card carrying trade unionists) concerned only with the perpetuation of their jobs? Would that they could become concerned then indeed we might report progress. Until that occurs we can only look for temporising, inaction and wordy pronunciamentoes from political hacks.

Then might take place a more dynamic view and action on the part of the working class to realize that, in this society, there exists only one body which appears as the potential that could deal with this problem. Then, maybe, that aroused and enlightened working class would understand that the problem of pollution (as indeed all other social and economic problems) can be resolved only through the resolution of society's basic problem: Class ownership of the means of life.

This picture (which we are now viewing) is not a pleasant one. "America the beautiful...from sea to shining sea" is now exhibiting an increasing "shininess" from the northeastern coast of Maine, through the gulf of Mexico to the Santa Barbara channel in the Southwestern area, with miles of oil slick provided mainly through off-shore drilling by huge oil corporations. The horrible mess off the coast of Louisiana in which millions and millions of barrels of oil have been wasted is a major crime against society -- capitalism's dissipation of natural resources. Were a crime of less magnitude but of similar character committed by an average citizen the consequence would likely be prosecution and a period in the hoose-gow. But the oil magnates have immunity. Read Lunberg's "Rich and Super-Rich" to get a picture of their influence and power. The reluctance of the oil companies to even admit complete liability and their foot-dragging in providing remedies should be sufficient to tell us that their contributions to pollution ending are not going to be radically of any great consequence. Some seventy to eighty miles east of Los Angeles the National Park in San Bernardino county, reveals a rapidly increasing death in the invaluable ponderosa pines. They are choked, and being unable to breathe, die. Their existence, as that of other vegetable life is essential to human life. If they do not live and breathe we humans may not live and breathe. One could expand this enormously.

As we see the position of the giant industrial corporations we cannot envisage their doing anything worth while or fundamental toward solving the problem. For if they were unqualifiedly serious, and determined to help restore ecological balance it would mean, for a time, closing of many plants, and the introduction of new technological means. This would call for an outlay of magnitude of NEW capital (produced in the surplus values rung from the productiveness of their workers). And while accumulated capital is ever ready to seek new fields for investment it does not, (and cannot, profitably) seek investments of capital which can make no return. Marx said that Capital is DEAD LABOR the LIVES BY SUCKING LIVING LABOR AND LIVES THE BETTER THE MORE IT SUCKS. The investments we see that would be required would be Dead Labor (Capital) burying its dead.

This suddenly apprehended problem (pollution) was seen by enlightened socialists long ago. This writer still remembers a thought provoking talk by a socialist almost sixty years ago in Vancouver, British Columbia. The speaker, in colorful and often romantic language, drew a picture of the coming of the white man to the North American continent, and symbolically presented "Mother Nature" as a personality, described her welcoming her children to a new and virgin continent. "Here, my children," she was made to say, "is a land unspoiled, rich in those resources necessary for human needs, a land more than any other blessed with an abundance of life-giving water, with its rivers and lakes teem-

ing with fish, untapped minerals in her hills and graced with huge forests of various timbers. Here vast rolling prairies, and rich earth capable of bringing forth fruits and foods for the benefit of mankind. Use it sensibly but for your well-being and it will bless you. Abuse it and destroy it, and I WILL WIPE YOU FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

In a few centuries abuse and destruction have been the act of man. Minerals ripped unceremoniously from the bowels of the earth without regard to conservation (mines so worked that valuable deposits remain, hopelessly irrecoverable); forests denuded without regard for re-forestation and the lush top soil of some thirty inches depth now reduced to less than six inches. And that mere six inches all that stands between life and death for humanity.

If the enormity of this problem, now alarming an increasing number of citizens could be apprehended by the Majority (the workers) then, perhaps, they might be compelled to carry their enquiry a little further and recognize that, not in superficial piddlings with "pollution" caused by capitalism, the remedy is drastic, basic and far reaching: the elimination of the system which has produced this alarming problem.

W. A. Pritchard

NEW PAGE -- SAME BOOK  
N.D.P. B.C. Election Win (concluded)

Socialists have used their efforts to attempt to educate the working class of the futility of reforming capitalism. It seems the workers are determined to learn the hard way via the N.D.P. The danger is that the frustrations arising from the N.D.P. experience will give rise to a feeling of hopelessness, that there is no hope in ever achieving anything through the electoral weapon.

To guard against this and the resultant anarchy the Socialist Party of Canada must redouble its efforts in exposing capitalism and the opportunistic political parties such as the N.D.P. that attempt to run it.

Larry Tickner

#### DAMNED IF YOU DON'T AND DAMNED IF YOU DO

A research team at the University of South Carolina Medical School have arrived at the conclusion that, "Alcohol, even in moderation, speeds up the destruction on nerve cells and initiates senility earlier in the life of any drinking man -- or woman."

Alcohol forms an adhesive substance in the blood, which cuts off blood cells from their oxygen supply. The trapped cells eventually die, affecting the heart, liver and brain, says the report. As more nerve cells are destroyed, senility sets in.

Other medical research indicates that the pressures and frustrations of capitalist society result in organ breakdown, causing a list of "psychosomatic" illnesses, and that a retreat into alcohol can ameliorate the organic destructiveness of these social forces. The question then arises, which is worse, the booze or the problems that drive one to drink? The malady or the medicine?

Unfortunately for the victims, the most popular move at this point would seem to be to abandon this dilemma, leave it hanging unanswered, and dive back into whatever set of tranquilizers is currently in use, rather than to surface and even think about a basic change in the relationship of society to social rather than anti-social ends.

## ABOUT THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE CLASSES -- WHAT TO DO?

Strikes, lockouts and labor disputes in general have become so prevalent that a cartoon was inspired, with one little boy asking another boy what he was going to be when he grew up. The other boy replied, "A mediator," confident that he would never be out of a job.

Below are listed 8 political parties or movements in B.C. with their proposals for dealing with the eternal struggle that takes place on the economic field between the two classes in modern society, employers versus employees.

## SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY - Government mediation commission --

NDP - An end to compulsory government intervention in labor disputes and a return to mutual responsibility; -- the development of an atmosphere of respect and confidence between workers and employers. (Victoria Daily Times, Aug. 2/72).

LIBERAL PARTY - Leader Dave Anderson said a Liberal government would repeal the mediation commission act and call for "ongoing committees" to handle labor management disputes. He would also ask for suggestions from both groups...establishment of a productivity council to determine whether industry can afford wage increases, a labor management committee, etc. etc. (V.D.T. July 15 & 25/72.)

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY - Leader Derryl Warren: the elimination of direct government intervention in labor disputes...independent arbitration board would be selected by the disputing parties. There should be no government participation. (V.D.T. Aug. 4/72).

"COMMUNIST" PARTY - Policy for B.C. not available, but from past experience it is known that it favors the continued existence of the two separate classes in society, as the above parties do, and that they get along as well as possible. This is accomplished in its country of origin by making strikes illegal.

MAOIST ORGANIZATIONS - About the same as the "Communist" Party, with the division of society in their country of origin divided into the same two classes as elsewhere. Strikes by workers against their state employers forbidden by law in China as in Russia.

TROTSKYITES - A hazy picture of a proletarian government composed of an intellectual elite, which would know what was best for the workers. Naturally the workers would be expected to co-operate with their bosses.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA - The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

IN A SOCIALIST SOCIETY - Instead of two classes existing in society, one producing goods and services for the other, with a running battle between them over how the wealth is to be divided, goods and services will be produced by all able bodied people, for all the people. This is the objective of the only Socialist Party in Canada. Before other social problems can begin to be solved, this problem

must be dealt with first. When all other parties claim that they can deal effectively with basic social problems, while leaving the means of production as the exclusive property of a minority, devoted to their interests, they are really just duping the workers.

#### QUEBEC SEPARATISM -- NON SOCIALIST

While visiting Paris, Parti Quebecois leader René Levesque said that while an independent Quebec would take control of certain sectors of the economy, it would still remain essentially a capitalist country and welcome foreign investment. (Western Producer, June 22, 1972).

That is what we insisted back in 1970 during the hysteria of the FLQ violence, (See The Western Socialist No. 6, 1970 and Fulcrum, Nov/Dec, 1970).

The methods of a political organization can often be a clue as to its objective. As far as the FLQ was concerned, terrorist and violent methods indicated an unconscious, non-majority route to office and minority power. They had something to hide, and "Socialism" was one of the ploys used to conceal its real aims.

Separatism generally, claims to be the champion of a discriminated and oppressed minority, that is, the French Canadian working class, located mostly in Quebec -- a language minority. No mention is made of the fact that the workers everywhere have identical problems that are world wide, and that nationalism within nationalism is about as politically backward as you can get. While the Parti Quebecois will rely on the ballot if it ever attains office, its ideas that separatism with capitalism, state and private, will help solve workers' problems is as utopian as are those of the other reform parties that think wage-slavery can be run in the interests of the wage slaves.

To indicate that a separate Quebec will have all the anti-social features common to capitalism elsewhere, Mr. Levesque vigorously rejected the idea that the Indians and Eskimos of northern Quebec should be consulted as to whether they wanted to remain under federal jurisdiction, or be moved under the tender paternalism of Quebec's independent capitalism.

The issue of minorities can sometimes be used by ambitious politicians and would-be state capitalists as a rung on the ladder to power. In this case, if they ever made it, the French Canadian workers would remain as an exploited national majority, and the Indians - Eskimos as a discriminated minority. Same old scene. The route to beneficial change is more working class political know how about their real position in society, regardless of race, sex or language.

"According to the materialist conception of history, the ultimately determining element in history is the production and reproduction of real life. More than that neither Marx nor I have ever asserted. Hence, if somebody twists this into saying that the economic element is the only determining one, he transforms that proposition into a meaningless, abstract, senseless phrase. The economic situation is the basis, but the various elements of the superstructure...also exercise their influence on the course of the historical struggle, and in many cases preponderate in determining their form."

(Engels in a letter to J. Bloch)

